

RESOURCES

NATURE, HISTORY AND HORTICULTURE IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

VOLUME 7, NO. 1 WINTER 2007

MY THREE LITTLE PIGS

By Todd Brown, Manager, Frying Pan Farm Park

Cold winds, frozen ground, and white snow.

I was ten years old, growing up on our Virginia family farm, on the winter night when my sow, Strawberry, delivered her first litter of pigs. Strawberry was a Hampshire/Yorkshire cross, white with blue spots on her rump, a combination often called "blue butt."

It was around midnight and I was sound asleep, like a ten-year-old boy should be. My father woke me and said, "Let's go, Strawberry is having her pigs." I got up reluctantly, knowing it had to be a lot colder outside than it was inside my blankets, but I quickly realized this was the chance of a lifetime. I would not only get to see an animal giving birth, but I would be a ten-year-old awake in the middle of the night.

I remember my dad's boot prints in the snow, and stretching out my short legs to try to step in his footprints.

My father and I headed toward the barn. I remember my dad's boot prints in the snow, and stretching out my short legs to try to step in his footprints.

When we got to Strawberry's pen, I was excited to see baby pigs that were still wet, laying behind their mother. Then Daddy said, "Oh no," and I realized that the little pigs weren't moving. Seven were dead in the bitter cold. But there were three little pigs stirring near their mother's udder. I was so happy that these three pigs made it. Dad didn't say much. He climbed out of the pen, sat down and softly said a cuss word. Then I took another look in the pen and realized that Strawberry wasn't moving. As warm tears fell from my face, I asked my dad what happened. He said, "Sometimes the stress of the cold and giving birth is too much for them to take."

Dad put his arm around me and said we needed to take care of the three little ones still alive. He put two in his jacket, and told me to grab the other one. We took them to the house, warmed some milk, and I got to feed them with my little brother's old baby bottle. We put them in a broken, basement bathroom shower with a heat lamp.

Dad told me they needed to be fed every two hours. He offered to take care of them so I could sleep, but I wanted to stay up, so he



See the newcomers at Frying Pan Park this spring.

went to bed while I watched them until their next feeding. I named the boy Huey, his two sisters Dewey and Louie. I fed them twice and then fell asleep beside the shower. My dad finished the night's feedings.

I fed the pigs the next morning and informed my parents that I couldn't attend school due to my responsibilities. They disagreed.

That afternoon, when the school bus door opened at the end of our lane, I'm sure I set the all-time speed record for running from the bus stop to the house. I ran downstairs, hitting every other step, to see my three little pigs. When I got to the shower, only Huey was waiting for me. I looked all around the bathroom for Dewey and Louie, but they were not there. I ran to the barn hollering for my dad.

I found him and explained how only Huey was in the shower. He put his arm around my shoulder and said, "I'm sorry. The two other piglets didn't make it." I walked off a few steps and he continued.

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Look inside for holiday events in the parks.

HOLIDAYS IN THE PARKS

NATURE CENTERS AND HISTORIC SITES

BURKE LAKE PARK

7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station
Call 703-323-6600

COLVIN RUN MILL

10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls
Call 703-759-2771

ELLANOR C. LAWRENCE PARK

5040 Walney Road, Chantilly
Call 703-631-0013

FRYING PAN PARK

2709 West Ox Road, Herndon
Call 703-437-9101

GREEN SPRING GARDENS

4603 Green Spring Rd., Alexandria
Call 703-642-5173

HIDDEN OAKS NATURE CENTER

7701 Royce Street, Annandale
Call 703-941-1065

HIDDEN POND NATURE CENTER

8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield
Call 703-451-9588

HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK

3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria
Call 703-768-2525

LAKE ACCOTINK PARK

7500 Accotink Park Rd., Springfield
Call 703-569-3464

LAKE FAIRFAX PARK

1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston
Call 703-471-5414

RIVERBEND PARK

8700 Potomac Hills Street
Great Falls
Call 703-759-9018

SULLY HISTORIC SITE

3601 Sully Road, Chantilly
Call 703-437-1794

Need directions or more information?
VISIT www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks

RESOURCES

Editor/Writer: David Ochs

Contributor: Natasha Peterson
Linda Crone

Photos: Don Sweeney, FCPA


Administration: Katie Bainer

Production: Innovative Projects, Inc.

Published quarterly by the
Fairfax County Park Authority,
12055 Government Center Parkway,
Fairfax, VA 22035-1118.

Available at park sites
and Fairfax County libraries.

Visit **ResOURces** online at
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources

 **ResOURces** is printed on 100% recycled paper.

Make Your Own Holiday Ornaments

November 24-December 31, (All ages),
Mondays, Wednesdays-Fridays 9am-4pm,
Weekends noon-4pm,

Riverbend Visitor Center, 703-759-9018.

Reservations recommended for groups. \$5 for two ornaments.

Country Holiday

Saturday, December 9, 3-6pm (Ages 3 to 93),
Colvin Run Mill Historic Site, 703-759-2771.

Enjoy an old-fashioned evening of family holiday fun. Visit Santa in the mill and peek at antique toys under the decorated Victorian holiday tree. Crafts, caroling, and marshmallow roasting. Shop for unique holiday gifts in the unhurried atmosphere of the 19th Century Colvin Run General Store. \$5.

Holiday by Candlelight

Saturday and Sunday Evenings,
December 9 and 10. (Families),
Sully Historic Site, 703-437-1794.

Discover the spirit of holidays past on the path to the elegant 1794 home of northern Virginia's first congressman. Take in 18th century rooms aglow with candlelight. Warm yourself by the fire, join the caroling, and listen for the jingle bells adorning the robe of our Victorian St. Nicholas. Take a holiday photo by our antique sleigh. Cookies and cider will be served. Prepaid reservations required. \$10/adult, \$7/senior and child.

Holiday Concerts

(Families) Sully Historic Site, 703-437-1794.

House tour included. Limited seating.
\$10/seat for each concert.

The Celtic Sounds of Iona, Wednesday,
December 27, 1pm, 2pm and 3pm.

Victorian Vocals with TreVoche'

Thursday, December 28, 2pm and 3pm.

Our Dynamic Earth:

Amazing Geologic Forces and Hazards

Sunday, December 10, 1pm-2:30pm (8-12 yrs.),
Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 703-941-1065.

Tsunamis, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions make headlines across the globe, but do they mean anything in Fairfax County? More than you might think! Discover the wild ways of weather. Reservations, advance payment required. \$5/child.

There's more at fairfaxcounty.gov/parks or
see the "Nature" and "History" pages
in the county publication *Parktakes*.

Be a Paleontologist for a Day

Saturday, December 16, 1pm-2:30pm
(8-12 yrs.), Hidden Oaks Nature Center,
703-941-1065.

Learn how fossil hunters unearth remains of giant beasts of long ago. Each participant, using protective eye wear, will extract from rock a real 200 million year old fern fossil to take home. Reservations, advance payment required. \$10/child.

Open House and Fireside Stories

Every Friday in January, 10:30 am-noon,
(6 yrs. and under), Riverbend Nature
Center, 703-759-9018.

Gather 'round the fireplace while the naturalist tells a story, enjoy play time, visit our exhibit animals, and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies while learning about our local wildlife. The nature center is not regularly open to the public. This is a unique opportunity for children to explore and for adults to enjoy a morning out. Reservations and advanced payment required. \$5/child, \$2/adult

Night Sky Festival

Saturday, January 20, 6-8:30pm,
(All ages), Riverbend Visitor Center,
703-759-9018.

Guided star gazing, look through a telescope, listen to ancient stories about the constellations around the campfire. Hot chocolate, tea, coffee, and snacks available for purchase. Canceled if raining or snowing. \$4.

Budding Artists and Naturalists

Friday and Saturday, January 26 and 27,
1pm-4pm (3-12 yrs.), Hidden Oaks
Nature Center, 703-941-1065.

Explore over a dozen learning stations. Make crafts to take home. Teen volunteers welcome as assistant naturalists with advance notice. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Reservations required. \$4.



EQUAL ACCESS/ SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

The Fairfax County Park Authority is committed to equal access in all programs and services. Special accommodations will be provided upon request. Please call the ADA/Access coordinator at 703-324-8563, at least 10 working days in advance of the date services are needed.

ADA/Access Coordinator 703-324-8563

TTY 703-803-3354

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ada.htm

The Dream of Clemyjontri Park

By Nancy Russo, Fairfax County Park Foundation

Somewhere over the rainbow

Skies are blue

And the dreams that you dare to dream

Really do come true

— Over the Rainbow, Arlen-Harburg



Workers carry a zebra to its post position.

Skies are blue, and the playground is spirited reds, vivid greens and bold yellows at Clemyjontri Park, where a dream really has come true.

Clemyjontri Park is a two-acre playground for the children of Fairfax County. Around the centerpiece carousel are a picnic pavilion and a modern assortment of monkey bars, swings and race tracks on a safe, rubberized surface.

The park in McLean was dedicated this fall, creating a beautiful place where children of all abilities will find the joys and delights of playing together. Clemyjontri Park has distinctive design details that ensure all children feel included.

- Wheelchairs fit perfectly in carousel chariots.
- Handles and high backs on swings support children with Down syndrome or cerebral palsy.
- Braille code is used for some activities.
- Ramps, wide pathways and colorful rubberized ground surface make getting around safe and easy.
- Learning games teach geography and time.

Future plans for the grounds include natural areas, open space, wooded glens, trails, gardens and a meeting house.



Come ride the Clemyjontri carousel.



Mrs Lebowitz

Mrs. Adele Lebowitz had the dream of Clemyjontri Park, and she awakened it by donating her 18-acre family home site for the setting. At the park dedication ceremony, U.S. Representative Frank Wolf of Virginia noted the value of that donation, saying, "Clearly, this could have been a housing development with \$2 million to \$3 million homes. Instead we have a park accessible to all children."

Plaques at the park recognize the charitable kindness and big hearts in a community that came together to fulfill a need and show how gifts to the parks can be developed and enriched to make a dream come true.

A county resident who had dropped by for the dedication saw Mrs. Lebowitz being greeted by one of the children on hand and said, "I hope she gets all the hugs from the little kids here that she deserves."

Clemyjontri Park is located at 6317 Georgetown Pike in McLean. See more about it, including hours, online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/clemyjontri

On behalf of the children and their parents, the Fairfax County Park Foundation extends deepest gratitude to the hundreds of people who made the dream of Clemyjontri Park come true, with special note to:

Adele Lebowitz

The Freed Foundation

McLean Citizens Foundation

Dan and Julie Clemente

The Claude Moore Charitable Foundation

Northrop Grumman

Fed Bid

Ruth and Tom Hamilton

Weichert Realtors

McEneaney Associates Realtors

Jerry and Anne Marie Marenburg

Hans Schmidt and Dr. Mary Anne Tarkington

Chuck Hancock

Joey Pizzano Memorial Fund & Fairfax County

Park Authority Adapted Aquatics

Susan & Bill Blakely

Kathlynn & Gerard Lear

Mindbank Consulting Group, LLC

Kerry and Bob Richard

John and Lisa Vogt

The John R. Eakin, Jr. Family

Paul and Jody Sweet

The Jacquemin Family Foundation

Reflection Dental

Adarsh P. Trehan

McLean Rotary Club

Fairfield Residential

Support Clemyjontri Park

For information: Call 703-324-8581 or e-mail Robert.Brennan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

To donate online: Visit www.fxparcs.org

To donate by mail: Send your check made payable to the Fairfax County Park Foundation, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 404, Fairfax, VA 22035

The Fairfax County Park Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and all contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Fairfax County Second Annual HISTORY CONFERENCE

Fairfax County held its Second Annual History Conference at Frying Pan Farm Park in November. The well-attended and successful conference brought together professionals, historic society members and citizens. Board of Supervisors Chairman Gerald Connolly confirmed its success and said there will be a third gathering in 2007.



History conference attendees

Braddock District Supervisor Sharon Bulova presents the publication *Braddock's True Gold*, a collection of historic items and tales about her district.



Keynote speaker and historian Harris Andrews

Conference Chairperson Lynne Garvey Wark



Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Gerald Connolly welcomes conference attendees.



Conference displays

THREE LITTLE PIGS *continued from page 1*

"I know you are upset, but there is still one pig that needs to be fed. Can you take care of him?" I screamed, "There's no use! Huey's going to die, too!" But Huey was still alive, and I needed to take care of him.

As I warmed Huey's milk, I began to ignore my anger and confusion. Instead, I created a plan to make sure Huey stayed alive. I took care of him day after day, night after night, week after week. He soon moved down to the barn, started to eat regular hog feed, and found a home in a pen with other pigs. He grew better than all the other pigs in his pen and weighed over 200 pounds by July! Most pigs of lesser quality would have gone to market by that time, but Huey became our herd boar for the next three years.

I learned a lot that cold January, about life and death, commitment, pride and friendship. Almost three decades have passed, and I still raise pigs with my family. I have seen over a thousand little pigs come into this world, and there isn't a litter that hits the ground that I don't think of my three little pigs. A lot of good things happened to me that night, and the lessons I learned were priceless. I will never forget spending that time with my dad and trying to follow his footprints in the snow. I am still proud to be trying to do so, and it is still a stretch for me.

Frying Pan Farm Park in Herndon is a working farm that preserves a lifestyle of the first half of the 20th Century. The park is open daily. Information: 703-437-9101 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fpp/

Don't forget, new baby animals will be arriving at Kidwell Farm in late winter and spring. The gray Suffolk ewe gave birth to triplet lambs last Super Bowl Sunday.

Follow the new arrivals at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fpp/kidwell.htm.

For more information call 703-437-9101.

Frying Pan Farm Park is located at 2709 West Ox Road in Herndon, VA.

Taking Care of Exhibit Animals



Experience nature outdoors and indoors at the parks.



Why do we do that?

Because it's the best care we can provide.

How do we know?

Because we're doing our homework.

The Resource Management Division of the Fairfax County Park Authority is trying to raise the quality of care we provide our exhibit animals. We're trying to make that quality of care a formal policy.

We have animals on display at some sites because they help us connect people to natural resources. Research shows that connection is better when people have an experience with a live animal. However, holding animals in captivity raises questions and demands responsibility. We're drafting answers to those questions and, if they become policy, they'll give staffers firm ground for the decisions they make about caring for animals.

*We'd like to set a standard
on the proper way to do things.*

We'd like to set a standard on the proper way to do things, and to that end we'll keep researching and learning how to provide the best care for our animals.

John Shafer, the assistant manager at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, and Todd Brown, the manager of Frying Pan Farm Park, are leading the development of guidelines for the handling of animals.

They're gathering information from publications, state veterinarian standards, national organizations, and agencies that handle wildlife and farm animals. These animals aren't pets. They're working animals, representing their species to the public.

The plan is for the Park Authority Board to consider these developing guidelines. If approved as policy, they would explain why we exhibit live animals and define our responsibility to them. Out of that policy would grow a procedural manual that would standardize the care of animals at each Park Authority site. The policy would outline who is responsible for animal care. The procedures manual would outline how staff care for a turtle, snake or other animal. With consistent care based on the best information available, the public will see a happier, healthier animal.

TEN Wonderful Things About the RMD and You

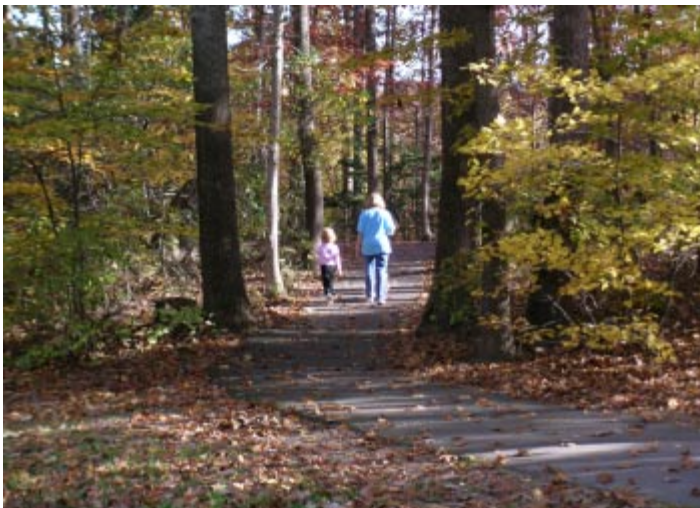


We're the Fairfax County Park Authority Resource Management Division. We're all about protecting, preserving and interpreting Fairfax County's natural and cultural heritage. The Resource Management Division oversees nine fully staffed nature centers, historic sites, museum collections, a farm and a horticultural center. Find us online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/sites.htm. Better yet, find us in a park.

FIVE Things We Do

Resource Protection, Natural and Cultural

The Resource Management Division protects streams, wetlands, forests and other resources, including land that plays a critical role in harboring wildlife and protecting the region's water resources. We inventory, document, protect and interpret historical and archaeological resources on parklands, and educate staff and the public about those resources. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/resources-nrp.htm



Museum Collections

The Fairfax County Park Authority protects and maintains the county's heritage. We collect and preserve materials that represent our heritage from prehistory to present day. We collect objects and documents associated with the history of Fairfax County, with the families who lived and worked at park sites, and that represent the history, growth and development of Fairfax County. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/collections/



Stone Mansion in Alexandria

Historic Property Rentals for your Historic Event

We help you on your big day. You're getting married! It's time for the company's awards banquet. Or, you think Groundhog Day is a good reason for a social gathering. You've got the reason, we've got the place. From the rustic life at Dranesville Tavern to the life of the privileged at Stone Mansion, our historic properties offer a unique place to gather. Several are available to rent for special events.

Call 703-938-8835 or go to the Web at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/weddings.htm to learn about Cabell's Mill in Centreville, Clark House in Falls Church, Dranesville Tavern in Dranesville, Great Falls Grange in Great Falls, Hunter House in Vienna, the Old Schoolhouse in Great Falls, or Stone Mansion in Alexandria.



Wakefield Chapel

Interpretation

We weave a thread between visitors and our park sites. Our extraordinary interpreters serve, engage and connect you to nature and history in a very real and vital way. They are highly-trained, passionate and gifted storytellers and teachers who expand and enliven the world. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/resources-interpret.htm



Holiday shopping at Frying Pan Park.

Stores

There are unique shops at our farm, our horticultural center and all nine of our nature centers and historic sites. Proceeds help support the parks, so your purchases go back into caring for your special places. Each store is different, and each one features carefully selected items that blend with each particular park's experience. There are:

- * Bread warmers at Colvin Run Mill.
- * Farm animal home decorations at Frying Pan Farm Park.
- * Gardening tools and books at Green Spring Gardens Horticulture Shop.
- * Pewter mugs and hand-blown glass vases at the Sully Schoolhouse Store.
- * Binoculars, outdoor guides and creepy-crawly things at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, Hidden Oaks and Hidden Pond.
- * Art shows at Huntley Meadows.
- * Books about nature for children and adults, and stuffed toy animals at Riverbend.
- * Gifts for the holiday season and special occasions at all sites.

FIVE Things You Can Do In Your Parks and For Your Parks

Stewardship

This is where you come in. You can help us take care of streams, wetlands, forests, animals, cultural resources and museum collections by being conscientious about your daily activities. As Mike Kane, the Director of the Park Authority, said in an address to Park Authority employees, "This is stewardship — taking heartfelt and diligent care of our natural and cultural resources in the best way that we can. It is everyone's

responsibility." Pick up a stewardship brochure at a Fairfax County Park Authority facility or site, at a library, community center or a Board of Supervisors district office. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/stewardship.htm



Stream cleanup.

Volunteering

Your donation of time is the lifeblood of the parks. You can be one of over 700 volunteers helping the Resource Management Division identify, protect and interpret the county's cultural, natural and horticultural resources, helping people enjoy and understand the parks, contributing to a sense of community and quality of life, learning about your parks and yourself, and helping maintain our high museum and interpretation standards. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/volunteer/rmdvol-main.htm

Horticultural Center

This is a "must visit" for everyone in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area. Gorgeous Green Spring Gardens teaches awareness and practice of gardening on five acres of gardens. It's a year-round gold mine of information and inspiration for the home gardener and an outdoor classroom for children and their families. And it's free. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp/

Children's Programs

Check out Garden Sprouts at Green Spring Gardens, where preschoolers discover the natural world through stories, crafts, and outdoor exploration.

Clemyjontri Park is a playground where every child is welcome. There are field trips at Frying Pan Farm Park, and endless exploration at Hidden Oaks Nature Center, Hidden Pond Nature Center, Riverbend Park, Huntley Meadows Park, and Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/sites.htm

Friends

You can be a friend of a park site. Pick your park, and join the Friends group that helps support the site. Membership benefits could include invitation-only events, behind-the-scenes programs and tours, special shopping days, farm animal birthing announcements, a newsletter, and discounts on purchases.

The Resource Management Division also conducts programs and special events at RMD sites and does the maintenance of its historical sites, parks and their facilities. For more information about special events, start at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/sites.htm

GARDENING BASICS FOR THE BEGINNER

by Mary Olien, Cynthia A. Brown, and Mary Frogale of Green Spring Gardens

Your New Year's resolution is new growth.

Not around your middle, but around your yard.



Well, let's get started.

There are two ways to start gardening.

You can go ask the experts at Green Spring Gardens. Or, you can go plant something, watch it sprout, watch it wilt and die, and then go ask the experts at Green Spring Gardens, a year-round gold mine of information and inspiration for the home gardener.

Here are some nuggets from that gardening gold mine.

ADVANCE PREPARATION

- ☞ Ask yourself how much time and work you want to spend gardening. That will help you decide what to grow. Remember, gardening is a year-round project.
- ☞ Learn about your yard. A low wet area won't work as a sandy, well-drained rock garden. Watch how the sun tells you what parts of your yard have morning sun and which have afternoon sun. Melting snow will tell you where the most sun shines on your yard.
- ☞ If you're scouting in winter, be aware that nearby bare trees will grow leaves and block sun in summer.
- ☞ Picking a spot for flowers? Remember to leave space for mowing and foot traffic from the dog and the kids.
- ☞ Invest in good tools. Don't cut corners here. Consider painting them red as a reminder for the children that they're not toys and to make them easy to find when dropped.
- ☞ Don't buy randomly from catalogs. Hold yourself in check, and research the plants you want to buy. Check out the Internet, nurseries, or the library at Green Spring.

Green Spring has workshops and seminars in January and February that will help the beginner. Learn about landscape design, planning, soil preparation, plant selection, basic gardening and the Master Gardeners' program.

703-642-5173 or www.greenspring.org

IN THE GARDEN WITH THE PLANTS

- ☞ Buy plants from a trusted source, like a good nursery or Green Spring.
- ☞ Want some color that makes your eyes pop? A small, compact clump of flowers has more impact than a long, straight line of plants.
- ☞ Dig holes wider rather than deeper. Root systems grow better.
- ☞ Don't plant shrubs too closely together (they'll grow) or annuals too far apart (they'll lose visual impact).
- ☞ Got an overgrown plant or one you don't like? Take it out. Nothing wrong with doing that.
- ☞ Don't worry if plants die. That's part of the gardening process.
- ☞ Mulch. About one knuckle deep will do it. Keep that mulch away from the plant's stem or trunk. When it comes to wearing mulch, plants like t-shirts, not turtlenecks.
- ☞ Container plants take a little more work, but there's one nice aspect to them. You shouldn't worry about the combination of plants you choose. Try it. If it works, great. If it doesn't, change it.

Read all labels on fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides. Follow those instructions exactly.

There's no right or wrong to the look of gardening plants. Just go with what you like. If you don't like it, change something. It's your home and garden, and your taste. Just make sure you start out with a couple of replaceable six-packs of annuals, not an \$800 tree.

Take a walk around Green Spring. See what you like. Winter is a good time to visit because the staff has more time to talk with you. While you're there, look closely at the plants and keep in mind that the park sells plants that are doing well in its own gardens.

Green Spring Gardens is at 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria, VA. The entrance is off Braddock Road, just north of the intersection with Little River Turnpike. The phone number is **703-642-5173**.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING AND CRAFTS IN THE PARKS

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY SHOPPING

Saturday, December 2, 10am-2pm

Sunday, December 3, noon-4pm

Monday, December 4, 1-4pm

Colvin Run Mill Historic Site,

703-759-2771

Plan now for this unique shopping event, as Colvin Run General Store presents its annual Children's Holiday Shopping Days. Volunteers help children find the perfect gift for everyone on their lists. The store will be stocked with unusual and reasonably priced items, many under \$10. Free wrapping. Adults are requested to wait on site. Please call ahead for groups of six or more.

HOLIDAY CENTERPIECE AND MORE

Sunday, December 3, 2-3:30pm (teen-adult),

Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 703-941-1065

Create an evergreen centerpiece with a tapered candle plus other holiday decorations. Reservations, advance payment required. \$15.



HOLIDAY SHOPPING

Saturday, December 2, 10am-4pm

Sully Historic Site, 703-437-1794

Find a treat for yourself or someone else on a holiday shopping trip that's perfect for kids and adults! Sully's one-room school house store is filled with items reminiscent of times past, from the 18th to 20th centuries. Our volunteers will wrap your purchases. Complete your day with refreshments in our original outside kitchen. Limited space; shoppers taken at timed intervals. Reservations required.

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY NATURE CRAFT EXTRAVAGANZA

Monday, December 4, 3-4:30pm

(5-10 yrs.), Hidden Oaks Nature Center,

703-941-1065

Enjoy creating holiday crafts, many featuring natural materials. All materials provided. Scout groups welcome. Reservations, advance payment required. \$10.

GARDENERS' HOLIDAY

Sunday, December 10, Noon-4pm

Green Spring Gardens, 703-642-5173

Last minute shopping? Green Spring's Garden Gate Gift Shop has gardening apparel, books, original art, note cards and fine teas. Free refreshments and holiday music while you shop. Free.

There's more at
fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.

SET SAIL TO DISCOVER

ICE MAKING IN 19TH CENTURY FAIRFAX

January 14, 1-2:30pm

Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 703-631-0013. Before refrigerators there was ICE! Learn how it was harvested and stored at Walney Farm. Reservations, \$3.



USE IT ALL UP!

January 28, 1-2pm

Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 703-631-0013.

Learn how Virginia Indians and early settlers used the deer they hunted. Hike into white-tailed deer habitat.

Reservations, free.

"TWO ROOMS — ONE UP, ONE DOWN"

February 17, 1, 2 or 3pm



Sully Historic Site, 703-437-1794. Tour the original outbuildings and discover cooking techniques used by Thornton, the enslaved cook at Sully. Visit the slave cabin to get a unique peek at the loft and discover methods used to prepare foods for the African-American community 200 years ago.

Reservations, \$6/adult, \$4/senior & child.

See [Parktakes Events and History](#) section or log on at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/jamestown2007 for more Jamestown 2007 events and celebrate America's 400th Anniversary.



Volunteer as a family.

NEW YEAR'S — a time for both peering into the past and looking ahead. Like millions of other Americans, you probably have at least one resolution for 2007. Need a little help keeping it?

*Peek at these ten common New Year's resolutions and see how **VOLUNTEERING** with the Park Authority can help you keep them!*

1. Get fit

Get off the couch and move! Lead a historic site tour, guide school children on a nature walk or spread mulch along trails. Volunteering at a park is a sure-fire way to burn calories.

2. Spend time with family

Make volunteering your family bonding time. Sign up as a family to tend a garden in your parks. You'll have a chance to chat and catch up on each other's lives as you water and plant. The family that weeds together, grows together.

3. Try something new

Hayride Driver, Bird Nest Box Monitor, Archaeologist...These are a few of the unique volunteer opportunities in the parks.

Be Resolved to Get Involved!

By Erin Chernisky, Volunteer Services Coordinator

4. Spend less, save more

Give those credit cards a break. If you're volunteering then you won't be at the mall!

5. Meet new people

Got a passion for history? Is your thumb green? Volunteering at a park is a great way to meet people who share your interests.

6. Get more organized

Practice makes perfect. Perhaps spending time sorting, cleaning and organizing archaeological artifacts will motivate you to do some sorting, cleaning and organizing at home!

7. Find a new job

Why not start with a volunteer job first? Volunteering can allow you to explore different career opportunities and put new skills on your resume.

8. Give back to the community

Help the park you love by volunteering your time and talents. Volunteers make up over 75% of our staff and are critical for continued operation of your parks. Whether you prefer the limelight as a tour guide or working behind the scenes answering phones, there is sure to be a park opportunity that matches your interests.

9. De-stress

Find relief from the hustle and bustle. For a few hours a month volunteering at a park can let you listen to calling birds in a wetland, experience laughter at a children's program, or explore the peaceful beauty of changing seasons along a trail.

10. Eat healthier

Hmmm...this one might be a little hard since we love to thank our volunteers with lots of chocolate, but this year WE resolve to toss in a few apples and carrot sticks for good measure!



COME JOIN US!

For more information about volunteer opportunities, contact Erin Chernisky, Volunteer Services Coordinator, at 703-324-8750 or erin.chernisky@fairfaxcounty.gov.

IMA Program Funding Continues

Fairfax County will continue the fight against invasive species.

Officials from the Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grant Program have awarded the Park Authority \$50,000 to continue its Invasive Management Species (IMA) program. The money gives a boost to the county-funded, year-old partnership between the Park Authority and volunteers who help control fast-growing plants like English ivy and kudzu.

Invasive plant species are difficult to remove and control. They grow quickly and can take over yards, gardens and forests. They reduce the biological diversity of natural areas by forcing out native plants, thus reducing the quality of wildlife habitat and wildlife populations. IMA volunteers remove unwanted plants by hand and plant native species in their place.

For more information on IMA sites or to volunteer, call the Resource Management Division at 703-324-8674. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/nrp-ima.htm. Learn about invasives at www.dcr.virginia.gov/dnh/vaisc/species.



Volunteers tangle with invasives.

LEARN ABOUT INVASIVE PLANTS.

You don't want to plant things that your neighbors, the county or the commonwealth are trying to eliminate.

There's information at www.dcr.virginia.gov/dnh/vaisc/species.



Ivy removal.

Volunteering at our county nature centers & historic sites is the perfect antidote to the nightly news and the frenetic pace of life.”
 — HARRY GLASGOW, long-time park volunteer and member of the Park Authority Board

If you love being outdoors, gardening, storytelling, arts and crafts, history, wildlife, archaeology, working with people and being creative, then become a park volunteer. Join our dynamic volunteer staff today by visiting www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks or calling 703-324-8750.

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MAIL TO: Resources/RMD, Suite 936
12055 Government Center Parkway • Fairfax, VA 22035-1118
or: subscribe through our website at
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources



On your next visit to Sully Historic Site, congratulate Beverly Horton. At Colvin Run Mill, look for Mike Toms or Rose Quinn. The Resource Management Division recently awarded them milestones for 25 years of volunteer service.

THROUGH THE WINTER...

Keep an eye on our Web site, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/, for Groundhog Day and Black History Month activities in February.

There's a Museum Collections exhibit on redware (primarily featuring items from the Lahey collection) now online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/collections/exhibits/redware/

Looking for something really simple that will add a splash of color and let you test gardening waters, or rather, soil? Plant pansies in early spring. Pick them by color. That's a good starting point to see if you like gardening.

Spider threads shimmer on warm, sunny days in December. Squirrels and deer look mysterious in gray coats on misty mornings. Come January, cedar waxwings and robins are searching for fruits and berries. Those squirrels are looking for their buried treasures. By February, the tree sap is flowing.

Follow winter through its gray days to spring with the Hidden Pond almanac at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hiddenpond/calendar.htm

Want to really learn about gardening? Volunteer at Green Spring Gardens! www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/volunteer/gsgpvol.htm, or call 703-642-5173.



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Fairfax, Virginia 22035-1118

A Fairfax County, Va., publication

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